

P-16 COUNCIL

The advisory P-16 Council (preschool through college) began in 1999, composed of members of the Kentucky Board of Education and the Council on Postsecondary Education. In order to better integrate all of Kentucky's education sectors, the P-16 Council later expanded to include representatives of the Education Professional Standards Board (the agency that certifies P-12 teachers), the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development, and the Workforce Development Cabinet (the agency that oversees adult education). The P-16 Council supports efforts to improve teacher preparation and professional development, align colleges and high school curricula, and raise the college-going rate through various initiatives:

- In 2001, it endorsed standards for college readiness in writing and math aimed at reducing the large proportion of first-year college students in Kentucky who need remedial assistance. The standards were developed by teams of high school and postsecondary educators. The Kentucky Board of Education and the Council on Postsecondary Education are discussing these standards and recommendations for curricular changes to determine the next steps toward implementation.
- In 2001, the P-16 Council endorsed the creation of a single rigorous curriculum for all high school students. It directed the staffs of the Department of Education and the Council on Postsecondary Education to develop a single high school curriculum for consideration. This effort is supported by Kentucky's selection as one of five states to participate in the American Diploma Project. Funded by Achieve, Inc., The Education Trust, the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, and the National Alliance of Business, the project's goal is to create a model high school curriculum so the high school diploma can be used by colleges and employers in admissions and hiring decisions.
- The Council on Postsecondary Education and the Department of Education are working to provide professional development for current teachers that better supports their work. The council sponsored three conferences in the past two years – one for arts and science and education deans, and two headed by our public and independent college chief academic officers – to make sure teacher education is a university-wide responsibility. The chief academic officers have assembled leadership teams on their campuses that are creating new programs to involve more faculty in partnerships with our public schools. The Education Professional Standards Board is working with the Kentucky Virtual University to make quality professional development accessible online to teachers through a new web site: www.KYeducators.org.
- The Council on Postsecondary Education provided funding to 11 local and regional P-16 councils across the state this past year. Local councils include public and independent postsecondary institutions, school district representatives, and other community leaders who come together to address a variety of issues, including preparation of high school students for college.

Questions Governing Board Members Might Ask

1. What can we do to get our community to think "P-16"?
2. What are we doing to improve the quality and quantity of P-12 teachers?
3. What are we doing to acknowledge and reward faculty for working with local school districts to increase college attendance?